THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) A mini-Ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), attended by about 30 Trade Ministers, was held in Geneva in July 2008 to finalise modalities for Agriculture and Non-Agricultural Market Access (NAMA). Simultaneously, a meeting on Services ("Signalling" conference) was also held. The mini-Ministerial meeting, however, ended without an agreement on any issue. The general opinion amongst WTO Members was that the negotiations should resume at the earliest opportunity despite this setback. The multilateral process of discussions has since resumed in the WTO on both agriculture and NAMA issues.

(b) The needs and interests of the developing countries, including the least developed among them, are at the heart of the present round of negotiations, which is a Development Round. The principal aim of India's negotiating strategy in this Round has been to protect the interests of farmers, particularly with regard to their food and livelihood security. Substantial and effective reductions in domestic support and import tariffs by developed countries, while enabling developing countries to protect and promote the interests of their low income and resource poor farmers, is a key priority for India and other developing countries in the agriculture negotiations. The flexibilities available to developing countries including, *inter alia*, lower tariff cuts than developed countries, self-designation of Special Products (SPs) which will have more flexible tariff reduction commitments than other products and the Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM) to safeguard the interests of farmers in the event of surges in import volumes or a fall in prices would be utilized by India for protecting low income and resource poor farmers of the country.

Fresh Violence Eruption in Assam

507. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that fresh violence has erupted in Assam and hundreds of people have been killed in this ethnic violence;

(b) whether Government is also aware that thousands of people living in Assam have become refugees in their home;

(c) if so, the details of places of violence, people killed and number of them still in camps; and

(d) what has been done by Government to prevent further escalation of situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) As per reports received from Government of Assam, 57 persons including 25 in Police action lost their lives and 117 persons were injured in the violence which took place during 3-5 October, 2008 in Udalguri and Darrang districts of Assam. Around 60,000 persons in Udalguri district and 68,000 people in Darrang district are presently staying in the relief camps set up by the State Government.

(d) The Army was deployed in aid of civil authority since the early morning of 4th October, 2008. The State Government had also redeployed units of the Assam Police and the Central Para-

military Forces (CPMFs) from other districts, in addition to the force already deployed in these two district. On the request of the State Government, 14 additional Coys of the CPMFs were also provided to assist the State Government in containing the violence.

The State Government has been advised to make necessary security arrangements, including intensive patrolling in the affected and vulnerable areas, including the adjoining areas in neighbouring district, and ensure that stringent action is taken against those involved in violence and apprehension of the elements involved in instigating the same. State Government has also been requested to mobilize civil society organizations and leaders/peace committees of both communities to calm the situation and create an atmosphere of security and confidence. All these measures have helped to contain the violence and prevent escalation. A close watch on the situation continues to be maintained.

Infiltration across the Border

†508.SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an increase in efforts of infiltration from across the border during the last six months;

(b) if so, the number of incidents of infiltration occurred from across the border during last six months;

(c) the number of infiltrators killed and arrested during the infiltration; and

(d) the details of measures being taken by the Government to prevent the infiltration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) to (c) Available information about apprehension of infiltrators on Indo-Bangladesh border during the last six months indicates a marginal increase in efforts of infiltration from across this border. The details of apprehension and killing of infiltrators on Indo-Bangladesh and Indo-Pakistan borders during the last six months are as under:

Month	Indo-Bangladesh border		Indo-Pakistan border	
	Apprehended	Killed	Apprehended	Killed
April	131	3	10	3
May	179	3	13	0
June	251	4	7	0
July	235	1	8	7
August	221	3	37	1
September	396	2	10	5

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi